



ARKANSAS LEARNING *through the* ARTS



affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network

PARTNERS IN ARTS AND EDUCATION

June 2026

NEW ARTIST to the ALTTA Roster Maria Hoskins, author of children's books



Teaching Artist Maria Hoskins began her career as an author when she was in her 50's. She writes children's books that focus on family and tradition and in most cases are based on her own memories of visiting her grandparents' farm at holiday times.

Ms. Hoskins brings her stories to young students through programs such as "Papa's Pets," which encourages students to learn the given names of the animals, arrange the animals in the story order, and retell the story to their classmates and teachers. Her programs teach critical literary skills such as retention, comprehension and communication. She encourages them to create their own stories about family pets or animals they have met.

Ms. Hoskins bases her workshops on a number of children's books, and makes the stories come to life for her young readers.

NEW PRICING STRUCTURE FOR SCHOOLS IN 2026 2027

A new pricing structure will be offered for the coming school year to:

- Encourage schools to select programming that aligns with their adopted curriculum units
- Address the limited funding the schools have available for enrichment programming.

The structure offers **free programming** for **two grade** levels in September and January and **'Buy-one, Get one'** for all months through mid-Spring. This is available as long as funding is available and is on a 'First come, First serve' basis. Regular fees will apply for programs scheduled in late Spring.

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts has created a **mapping of workshop programs for two curricula** – *Arts and Letters* and *Amplify CKLA* which are in use at the currently participating school districts. The purpose is to facilitate the selection process – matching which workshops align with the curriculum units.

DONORS: HELP US PROVIDE FREE AND AFFORDABLE PROGRAMMING TO THE SCHOOLS!

Grants provide funding for a variety of programs and projects, but do not cover all expenses.

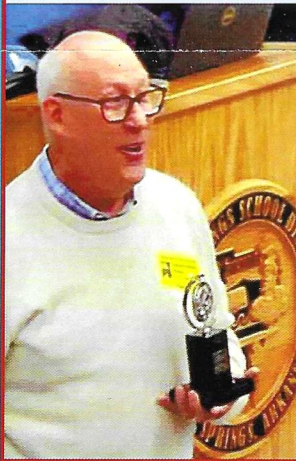
Individuals and companies are also invaluable pieces to the funding puzzle!

You may donate by sending a check or going to www.altta.org and click on the **DONATE BUTTON!**

BRINGING THE ARTS WITHIN REACH! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR OUR STUDENTS?

ALTTA held its annual dinner on March 16 at the Arkansas School for Math Science and the Arts which generously provided their beautiful space for our event. The keynote speaker, **Steve Fessler** conveyed how arts experiences can certainly train the next generation of performers and painters. He also emphasized that the arts can bring to all students the ability to use their creativity and expressiveness to learn skills that will carry them through all aspects of their world.

Mr. Fessler spent the early part of his career as a Broadway singer, dancer and choral music educator. He moved on to production design and executive positions with the Disney Corporation and then as a Broadway play producer, earning a Tony Award. In retirement, he focuses his attention on performing artists and arts organizations.



At **Hot Springs High School**, Steve addressed students in the arts programs – dance, theatre and visual arts. He shared his life journey and what it took to earn that Tony Award he is holding! They were very inquisitive about the variety of opportunities that the arts could make available to them.



REPORT CARD FOR 2025-2026

During the 2025-26 school year, Arkansas Learning Through The Arts (ALTTA) expanded both outreach to communities and the number of artists and programs available to schools, libraries, and after-school and summer programs. The organization:

- Reached over **2200 students** in 26 schools, libraries and learning centers in Clark, Faulkner, Garland, Hot Spring, Jefferson, Lonoke, Phillips, Pulaski and Saline counties.
- Offered **80+ unique grade-specific workshops**, spanning PreK – 12th grades, linked to the AR Dept of Ed. curriculum standards.
- Contracted with **14 Professional Teaching Artists** to work with students in classrooms in a variety of the arts:

Visual Arts (pottery, craft and painting)	Poetry	Interactive Story-telling
Music (song writing)	African Drumming	Dance
Theatre and Improvisation	Mime	Puppetry

PLANS FOR 2026-2027

- Offer **free and discounted programming** to schools to encourage scheduling throughout the year and addressing the limited funding available to schools for enrichment programming.
- **Expand programming in both Central Arkansas and the Arkansas Delta Region**, using the new curriculum mapping for workshops – easier for principals to select which programs relate to the curriculum units.
- Offer **programming for adult learners through libraries and other community centers**.



Welcome to Executive Director

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts welcomes **Dr. Liana Valente** as its new Executive Director beginning August 1. Dr. Valente brings a combination of nonprofit leadership, higher education administration and program development experience.

This includes being Inaugural Coordinator of the Shared Voices Program of the Denyce Graves Foundation, professor and administrative posts at Howard University and the Washington Conservatory of Music and non-profit administration with the American Logistics Aid Network.

Dr. Valente holds graduate degrees from the University of Tennessee and the University of South Carolina in vocal performance; she has performed extensively on concert and operatic stages, nationally and internationally. The Board looks forward to her leadership and are delighted to welcome her to Hot Springs!

BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE!

Brenda Hagerich is returning to ALTTA as Central Arkansas Program Manager. Building on her experience teaching education at Henderson State and her extensive networking in the area, Brenda will be in charge of scheduling for libraries, after school programs and schools in Pulaski, Faulkner, Saline, Garland, Hot Spring and Clark counties.

Teah Edgin has joined the staff as a curriculum writer. Teah is responsible for ensuring programs and support materials align with state requirements, and assists our artists in developing new programs and revisiting older offerings.

Diana Burns has joined the staff as a data entry specialist. She is assisting the program managers and the executive director in the development and execution of contracts and printed materials. Diana draws upon extensive experience as a program manager and financial analyst at Arizona State University.

THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S DONORS WHO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!

Michelangelo

Arkansas Arts Council
Find Your Light Foundation
Francis Dewing Foundation
King Foundation
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Martha Smither
Windgate Foundation

Shakespeare

John Burford



Beethoven

ALTTA Endowment (ARCF)
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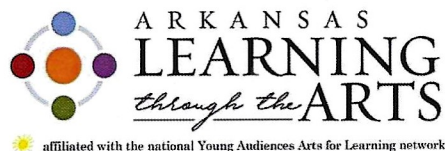
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SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: *Arkansas Learning Through the Arts*

4501 N. HWY 7, SUITE 8, #315, HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, 71909

Your membership is entirely tax deductible. ALTTA is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization under IRS regulations.

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by County

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